Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 4 (canceled)

1   Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of analyzing resource placement, comprising:

2   identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources, ~~wherein the~~

3   ~~resources comprise at least one of: information technology personnel and monetary investments~~

4   ~~to be made~~;

5   identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for the placement of

6   the resources, ~~wherein the criteria comprise at least one of: local information technology skills~~

7   ~~and competitor strength~~;

8   ~~defining at least one objective measurement for each of the identified criteria, wherein the~~

9   ~~definition comprises at least one factor to assess in determining how well that criterion is met and~~

10   ~~measurement guidelines specifying, for each of a plurality of numeric values, when to assign that~~

11   ~~numeric value when assessing that criterion~~;

12   selecting, for each of a plurality of specified business objectives of a company for which

13   the decision is to be made and each of the criteria, a weight for weighting computations using that

14   criteria with that business objective;

15   creating a product profile that specifies a value for each of the identified criteria, wherein

16   the specified values indicate importance to the company of that criterion;

17   creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, wherein each of

18   the geography profiles specifies a location-specific value for each of the identified criteria, ~~wherein~~

19   ~~the location-specific value for each of the criteria is determined using each of the defined at least~~

20 ~~one objective measurement for that criterion to assess the candidate location for which the~~

21 ~~geography profile was created;~~

22 <u>programmatically computing a location-specific resource placement score for each of the</u>

23 <u>candidate locations</u> using the values specified in the product profile, the location-specific values

24 specified in the geography profiles, and the weights ~~to compute a location-specific resource~~

25 ~~placement score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:~~

26 ~~for each of the geography profiles, computing a gap value for each of the criteria~~

27 ~~by subtracting the location-specific value specified for that criterion in the geography profile from~~

28 ~~the value specified for that criterion in the product profile;~~

29 ~~for each of the specified business objectives and each of the criteria, applying the~~

30 ~~weight selected for weighting computations using that criteria with that business objective to~~

31 ~~weight the gap value computed for that criterion in each of the geography profiles if that gap~~

32 ~~value is a positive numeric value, and assigning a zero value for that weighted gap value~~

33 ~~otherwise;~~

34 ~~computing a sum, for each of the specified business objectives and each of the~~

35 ~~geography profiles, of each of the weighted gap values for that specified business objective in that~~

36 ~~geography profile;~~

37 ~~normalizing each of the sums by dividing the sum by a count of the criteria; and~~

38 ~~using the normalized sum for each of the geography profiles as the computed~~

39 ~~location-specific resource placement score for the candidate location for which that geography~~

40 ~~profile was created;~~

41 ~~selecting a particular one of the candidate locations using the computed location-specific~~

42   ~~resource placement scores; and~~

43   ~~placing the resources in the selected particular one of the candidate locations.~~

Claims 6 - 17 (canceled)

1   Claim 18 (new): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:

2   determining a set of business objectives for one or more candidate locations;

3   developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

4   performing value chain analyses for a product or service to be provided, thereby

5   determining what types of resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

6   developing cost factors pertaining to placing the determined resources in the candidate

7   locations;

8   programmatically computing a value using the business objectives, according to the

9   developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors, and using the

10   programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a particular location from among

11   the candidate locations; and

12   assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular location.

1   Claim 19 (new): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the computing further comprises

2   estimating and accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while performing the value

3   chain analyses.

1   Claim 20 (new): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned resources are

2   information technology personnel.

1   Claim 21 (new): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned resources comprise

2   monetary investments in the particular location.

1   Claim 22 (new): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising selecting one of the

2   candidate locations using the computed location-specific resource placement scores.

1   Claim 23 (new): The method according to Claim 22, further comprising placing the resources in

2   the selected one of the candidate locations.

1   Claim 24 (new): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising:

2   selecting a plurality of the candidate locations using the computed location-specific

3   resource placement scores; and

4   placing the resources in the selected plurality of candidate locations.

1   Claim 25 (new): The method according to Claim 5, wherein:

2   a single candidate location is identified instead of a plurality thereof;

3   a single geography profile is created for this single candidate location; and

4   programmatically computing a location-specific resource placement score for each of the

5   candidate locations further comprises using the values specified in the product profile, the values

6　specified in the single geography profile, and the weights to evaluate how suitable the single

7　candidate location is for the placement of the resources.

1　Claim 26 (new): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising defining objective

2　measurements for the identified criteria.

1　Claim 27 (new): The method according to Claim 26, further comprising using the defined

2　objective measurements when specifying the location-specific values in the geography profiles.

1　Claim 28 (new): A system for assigning resources, comprising:

2　　　a computer comprising a processor;

3　　　a set of business objectives for one or more candidate locations;

4　　　one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

5　　　results of value chain analyses performed for a product or service to be provided, the

6　results usable for determining what types of resources will potentially improve the analyzed value

7　chain;

8　　　cost factors pertaining to placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;

9　　　instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement

10　functions comprising:

11　　　　programmatically computing a value, using the business objectives, according to

12　the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors; and

13　　　　using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a particular

14   location from among the candidate locations; and

15   assigning the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-selected

16   particular location.

1   Claim 29 (new): A computer program product for analyzing resource placement, the computer

2   program product comprising at least one computer-readable media having computer-readable

3   program code embodied therein for:

4   storing an identified plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources;

5   storing an identified a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for

6   placement of the resources;

7   storing selected weights that reflect business objectives of a company for which the

8   decision is to be made;

9   storing a product profile that specifies a value for each of the identified criteria, where the

10   specified values indicate importance to the company of that criterion;

11   storing a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, wherein each of

12   the geography profiles specifies a location-specific value for each of the identified criteria; and

13   programmatically computing a location-specific resource placement score for each of the

14   candidate locations using the values specified in the product profile, the values specified in the

15   geography profiles, and the weights to compute one or more location-specific resource placement

16   scores for each of the candidate locations.

1   Claim 30 (new): A method of providing a resource placement validation service, comprising:

2   identifying a location that has been selected for placement of resources;

3   identifying a plurality of criteria pertaining to placement of the resources in an arbitrary

4 location, as if the identified location had not been selected;

5   creating a product profile that specifies values for first selected ones of the identified

6 criteria;

7   creating a geography profile for the selected location, where the geography profile

8 specifies location-specific values for second selected ones of the identified criteria;

9   programmatically computing a location-specific resource placement score for each of the

10 candidate locations using the values specified in the product profile and the values specified in the

11 geography profile; and

12   making a recommendation, based on the one or more computed location-specific resource

13 placement scores, as to the selected location.

1 Claim 31 (new): The method according to Claim 30, further comprising placing the resources in

2 the recommended location.